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March 17, 2006

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Co-Channel Interference in the 2496-2500 MHz band
Ex Parte Presentation, Docket No. 02-364

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Representatives of Sprint Nextel Corporation (Sprint Nextel) and the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) met yesterday with representatives of the Office of Engineering Technology.¹ Sprint Nextel, which is a major licensee in the broadband radio service (BRS), and SBE, which represents licensees in the broadcast auxiliary service (BAS), agree that planned BRS operations in the 2496-2500 MHz band cannot coexist on a co-channel basis with the existing BAS licensees in the same spectrum. Coordination is impossible as a practical matter because BRS licensees will use this spectrum for subscriber-to-base station communications throughout the same service area that BAS uses for various video transmissions today.

To enable use of the BRS Channel 1 spectrum comparable to the use these licensees enjoy today, BAS licensees must be relocated. Done properly, the relocation of BAS operations necessary to provide comparable replacement spectrum for BRS licensees need not be particularly costly or time consuming. In the current record, both SBE and Sprint Nextel have supported a two-stage relocation process for BAS.

First, Sprint Nextel has made a conditional offer to voluntarily equip many of the radios on BAS Channels A8, A9, and A10 when it upgrades BAS Channels A1-A7 pursuant to the terms of the *800 MHz Report and Order*.² "Digitizing" the existing BAS A8-A9 operations in place while slightly adjusting the center-channel frequency of BAS A10 would solve the co-channel problem with BRS Channel 1, which will allow for accelerated broadband deployment in the BRS spectrum.

¹ Trey Hanbury and Michael Degitz represented Sprint Nextel. Christopher Imlay represented SBE. And Julius Knapp, Patrick Forster, and Jamison Prime represented OET.

² If a BAS licensee elects to use the narrower, 12 megahertz bandwidth at Channel A10 rather than the wider, 16.5-17-megahertz bandwidth used by the analog equipment, Sprint Nextel-provided equipment could be configured to shift Channel A10 down to a new center channel frequency located below the BRS-1 band should the BAS licensee elect to do so.

Second, Sprint Nextel and SBE support reordering BAS Channels A8, A9, and A10 to compress these channels below 2486 MHz. This "repacking" process for the channels will allow BAS to fully use its available spectrum resources and avoid long anticipated co-channel interference with Globalstar's potential mobile-satellite service ancillary terrestrial component operations in the 2487.5-2493 MHz band. The repacking process would occur no later than when Globalstar deploys its planned MSS ATC system.

A diagram of the two-stage process is attached.

After reiterating their joint support for a two-stage relocation process, SBE and Sprint Nextel explained that, whatever mechanism the Commission chooses to relocate BAS out of the 2496-2500 MHz band, financial responsibility for any necessary relocation expenses should rest with the on the parties that force BAS to relocate: Globalstar, which has had a responsibility for BAS coordination in this band since 2003, and the advanced wireless service (AWS) auction winners within the 2110-2180 MHz band that will soon occupy the spectrum that BRS1 licensees have been forced to vacate.

Please associate this submission with the above-referenced docket.

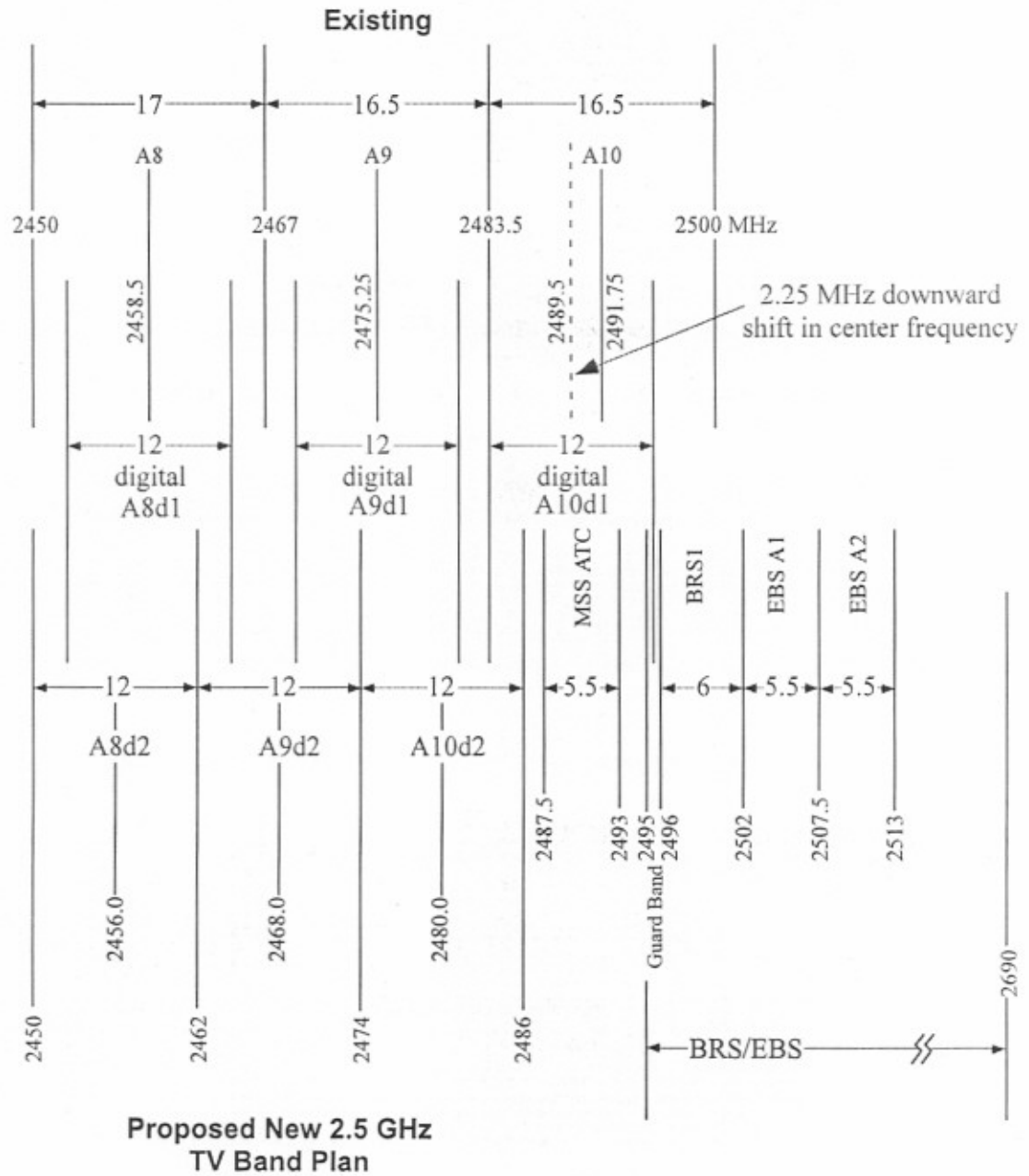
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Trey Hanbury', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Trey Hanbury, Esq.
Director, Sprint Nextel Corporation

CC: Julius Knapp, Patrick Forster, Jamison Prime

Existing vs Proposed New 2.5 GHz TV BAS Band Plan



All frequencies and bandwidths are in MHz.



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